

LARGE LOOKDOWNS FROM TAMPA BAY, FLORIDA

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DURING a recent cold spell (December 12-13, 1962), 17 large lookdowns, *Selene vomer* (Linnaeus), were found dead on the beaches or in a stunned condition in the water north of Pass-a-Grille channel. The water temperature at that time was 10.4°C. and salinity 33.0 o/oo, in contrast with readings for the previous week (December 3) of 18.1°C. and 32.4 o/oo.

Thirteen females and four males were in the group recovered. The largest specimen, a female, measured 287 mm., S. L. (standard length) and 375 mm., T. L. (total length). The body depth was 68.6 per cent of the length (S. L.). The fin ray counts of this specimen were as follows: dorsal (22), anal (18), and pectoral (18). The size ranges for females and males in the sample were: 163 to 387 mm. and 163 to 200 mm., S. L., respectively. The corresponding mean lengths for the sexes were 202.54 mm. and 180.00 mm., S. L.

During 18 months of regular sampling in Tampa Bay, 3 small specimens of *S. vomer* were collected. Two were caught in June, 1962 (39.0 and 43.0 mm., S. L.), and one in August, 1962 (28.0 mm., S. L.).

Several large specimens of this species have been reported, but none larger from the west coast of Florida. Reid (1954) reported one specimen 33 mm. in length, taken near Seahorse Island, Florida. Joseph and Yerger (1956) reported no adult specimens from Alligator Harbor, but one adult, 216 mm. S. L., from Gulf Beach, one mile west of Bald Point, Florida. Springer and Woodburn (1960) reported one specimen 17.9 mm. S. L., from Belle Vista Beach, Florida. Tabb and Manning (1961) collected *S. vomer* twice from Sandy Key Basin and East Cape Sable in northern Florida Bay, but gave no measurements of the specimens.

Large specimens of *S. vomer* taken elsewhere in the Gulf have been reported by various authors. The largest to date is one 483 mm. T. L., (360 mm. S. L.) taken at Port Aransas, Texas (Pounds, 1962). Ginsburg (1952) reported a specimen 317 mm. long, from Jamaica and another 195 mm. long, from the Gulf of Mexico. Gunter (1945) reported a specimen 123 mm. long from Texas. Hildebrand (1939) mentions one *S. vomer* of 320 mm. S. L. from Gatun

Locks, Panama. Hildebrand (1954) reported specimens ranging from 72 mm. to 111 mm. in length, in the western Gulf.

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